

8553/217

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

OLAF VAN DER LELY

APPLICATION BRANCH

SERIAL NO. (to be assigned)

Filed: June 5, 2001

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR WRAPPING
BODIES, ESPECIALLY BALES OF HARVESTED
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

To The Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir

This Preliminary Amendment is for the above-identified Application which is being under filed 35 USC §111(a) as a Continuation of co-pending International Application PCT/NL00/00619, filed September 4, 2000, International Publication No. WO 01/24611 A1 published April 12, 2001. Priority based thereon of September 4, 2000 is claimed and is further claimed for October 5, 1999 based on European Patent Application 99203251.6 filed October 5, 1999.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

A copy of the PCT Application, which is in the German language, is submitted herewith as the original Application together with an English translation thereof which is certified to be a true and accurate translation of the original German language document. Further submitted herewith is a Substitute Specification

wherein the translation of the original Application in the German language has been placed in a format customary to U.S. Patent Applications together with minor amendments of an editorial nature. No new matter has been added to the Substitute Specification. However the Substitute Specification is amended by the insertion of: --

RELATED APPLICATION:

This Application is a Continuation of International Application No. PCT/NL00/00619, filed September 4, 2000.-- which it is submitted, is an appropriate amendment. A marked-up copy of the English translation of the original Application which is in the German language is also submitted herewith for comparison purposes.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On page 13 of the English translation of the original Application, immediately following the heading "PATENT CLAIMS", please insert: --Having disclosed my invention, what I claim as new and to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States of America is:--

Please cancel all Claims except Claims 1 and 18 without prejudice.

Please add the following Claims:

Claim 33. A device for wrapping a bale of harvested agricultural produce which comprises wrapping means for wrapping at least one layer of a film of material completely around said bale with said film having its interior layer in direct contact with substantially the entire outer surface of said bale and label

applying means automatically for applying a label to said film comprising identifying information relating to said bale.

Claim 34. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said label comprises a self-adhesive label.

Claim 35. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said label applying means comprises a label dispensing unit and a pressing element for pressing said label against said film.

Claim 36. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said wrapping means comprises a rotary arm which is arranged on said label applying means, said rotary arm moving in a circle around said bale.

Claim 37. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said wrapping means comprises a rotating wrapping table, said label applying means being arranged on said rotating wrapping table.

Claim 38. A device in accordance with Claim 37 wherein said wrapping means comprises a film stretching device, said label applying means being arranged to apply said label on said film that has been stretched by said film stretching device.

Claim 39. A device in accordance with Claim 33 which comprises a stand, said wrapping means and said label applying means being supported by said stand, said label applying means being arranged on said stand in an articulating manner.

Claim 40. A device in accordance with Claim 33 which comprises a film cutting-and-clamping device which is coupled with said label applying means.

Claim 41. A device in accordance with Claim 33 which

comprises a bale discharge device, said label applying means being coupled with said bale discharge device.

Claim 42. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said label applying means comprises a pressing element which presses said label against the surface of said film when said bale is at least substantially wrapped with said film.

Claim 43. A device in accordance with Claim 33 comprising means for detaching said label from said film by rotating said bale.

Claim 44. A device in accordance with Claim 33 which comprises a tape containing a plurality of said labels which is moved into contact with said film by said label applying means.

Claim 45. A device in accordance with Claim 44 wherein said label applying means comprises mechanical means for moving said tape.

Claim 46. A device in accordance with Claim 44 wherein said label applying means comprises an electric energized means for moving said tape.

Claim 47. A device in accordance with Claim 44 wherein said label applying means comprises hydraulic means for moving said tape.

Claim 48. A device in accordance with Claim 44 wherein said label applying means comprises pneumatically powered means for moving said tape.

Claim 49. A device in accordance with Claim 44 wherein said label applying means comprises a power-take-off means of a tractor

for moving said tape.

Claim 50. A device in accordance with 33 wherein said label applying means comprises label imprinting means consisting of means for printing symbols, or marks or electronically captured data or any combination thereof.

Claim 51. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said label applying means comprises a mechanical pressing device.

Claim 52. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said label applying means comprises an electronic pressing device.

Claim 53. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said label applying means consists of imprinting means for directly applying symbols, or marks or electronically captured data to said film.

Claim 54. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said label applying means comprises control means for controlling the location that said label is applied to said film.

Claim 55. A device in accordance with Claim 33 wherein said wrapping means comprises a sensor that determines the extent that said bale has been wrapped with said film.

Claim 56. A method of wrapping a bale composed of an agricultural product which comprises steps of completely wrapping said bale with a film so that the interior of said film is substantially in continuous contact with the entire surface of said bale, and applying identifying information to said film which relates uniquely to the identity of said bale including the manner said bale is wrapped with said film.

Claim 57. A method in accordance with Claim 56 comprising controlling the applying of identifying information to said film so that said information includes the number of revolutions said bale has been subjected to in order to place said identifying information at the desired location on said bale.

Claim 58. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said film is cut in a cutting step which takes place after said identifying information has been applied to said film, the applying of said identifying information to said film being coordinated with the step of cutting of said film.

Claim 59. A method in accordance with Claim 56 which comprises discharging said bale from supporting means for said bale for supporting said bale while it is being wrapped with said film, the applying of identifying information to said film being coordinated with said discharging of said bale from said supporting means.

Claim 60. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said identifying information is applied to said film while said bale is being wrapped.

Claim 61. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said identifying information is applied to said film while said bale is relatively at rest.

Claim 62. A method in accordance with Claim 61 wherein said identifying information is applied to said film by an ink-jet printer.

Claim 63. A method in accordance with Claim 61 wherein said

identifying information is applied to said film by electronic printing.

Claim 64. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said film is substantially transparent, said identifying information being applied to said film in such a manner that it is subsequently covered by said film while still being detectable through said film.

Claim 65. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said identifying information is on a self-adhesive label, said self-adhesive label fastening said film to said bale.

Claim 66. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said identifying information is applied to said film by an adhesive which is not caused to adhere to said film until after a label having said adhesive thereon has been placed on said film.

Claim 67. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said identifying information is pre-printed on a self-adhesive label.

Claim 68. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said film is a self-adhesive film and said identifying information is imprinted on said film.

Claim 69. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said identifying information is imprinted on labels before being applied to said film.

Claim 70. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said identifying information applied to said film also relates to characteristics of the bale being wrapped.

Claim 71. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said

identifying information is controlled remotely and recognized by electronic data recording systems.

Claim 72. A method in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said identifying information comprises electronic identification with which bale can be located.

Claim 73. A method in accordance with Claim 72 wherein said electronic identification is sensitive to a satellite navigation system.

Claim 74. A method in accordance with Claim 73 wherein said satellite navigation system comprises GPS.

Claim 75. A method in accordance with Claim 73 wherein said satellite navigation system comprises DGPS.

Claim 76. A method of wrapping a bale composed of an agricultural product which comprises the steps of completely wrapping said bale with a film so that the interior of said film is in substantially continuous contact with said agricultural product and applying identifying information to said film which relates to at least one characteristic consisting of at least one of the following characteristics: the extent of said bale is wrapped with said film or the location of said bale.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

In lieu of the Abstract which appears on the cover page of the translation of the application, under the drawing, please substitute The Abstract of the Disclosure appended hereto.

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is: (1) To provide

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device for wrapping bales of agricultural produce such as bales of hay, straw or green crop with a film. The bales are completely wrapped with the film and are marked to set forth the quality of the bale as silage and with further information. The information may include the amount of film used to wrap the bale and thus the number of wrapping layers, and the name of the person responsible for wrapping the bale. Electronic devices may be applied to the wrapping film for ascertaining the location of the bale after it has been wrapped by GPS or DGPS. The information can be imprinted directly on the film used for wrapping the bale or on labels applied to the film.